

## News from Nova Scotia

**Marlo MacKay, Dalhousie University**

## News from Dalhousie University Libraries

### Dalhousie Libraries Welcomes New Staff

Over the past several months, the Dalhousie Libraries have welcomed a number of new staff members. We are thrilled to welcome these skilled individuals to our libraries.

**Norbert Addo** has been hired as a permanent *Help Desk Technician* at the Killam Library. He first started working there 2014 while he was a student, providing IT assistance to students and faculty alike.

**Leah Unicomb** started as the new *Manager of Library Services* at the MacRae Library on July 4. Leah is responsible for the daily management of the library including staff, services, and facilities.

**Lucy Kiester** has been hired as the new 10 month limited term *Instruction and Reference Services Librarian* at the W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library.

**Hannah Steeves** has been hired as the new limited term *Instructional and Reference Services Librarian* at the Sir James Dunn Law Library.

We recently said goodbye to *Copyright Services Coordinator John Yolkowski*. We wish him well in his new role at SMU.

### Service Enhancement for GIS & Data Services

The Geographic Information System (GIS) Centre and other data services at the Dalhousie Libraries have been brought together with the goal of supporting a wider variety of teaching, learning, and research activities.

Leading this activity will be the new *Coordinator of GIS & Data Services*, **Gwen MacNairn**. Gwen brings her impressive record of the provision of library services, experience in the development and oversight of staff training, and her knowledge of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and GIS applications to this new system-wide role that began August 15. Gwen has a strong service orientation, having worked for the past fifteen years as the Computer Science Librarian for the Faculty of Computer Science, and most recently as the Assistant Head of the Killam Memorial Library. She is also the liaison librarian for the Medical Sciences program, and spends her time in the Kellogg and Killam Libraries in this capacity.

The creation of the Coordinator of GIS & Data Services position acknowledges that GIS and other data services are required to support the curriculum, in addition to supporting research. The services will now be aligned and strengthened across the five libraries at Dal. Other members of the team include **Julie Marcoux**, the *Data Librarian*, who helps Dalhousie's community locate and access data and statistics in the most appropriate formats and promotes access to Canadian microdata through Dal Libraries' resources. **James Boxall** and **Jennifer Strang**, the highly regarded *GIS specialists* in the GIS Centre, run the busy GIS service point in the Killam Library, at a time when we are observing increasing demand for spatial data in all disciplines at the University. Joining them are a growing number of Dal Libraries staff who will be able to provide front-line service and referrals to GIS & Data Services from each of the Dal Libraries.

With the creation of this coordinating role under **Elaine MacInnis**, *Associate University Librarian, Library Services*, the GIS Centre will become part of the Associate University Librarian (AUL) Library Services' portfolio, moving from the AUL's Research and Scholarly Communication. Thanks to **Michael Moosberger**, *AUL Research & Scholarly Communication and University Archivist*, for overseeing the GIS Centre staff and services for the past five years. Mike's commitment to staff development, and his close communications with faculty, saw the development of a GIS Faculty Advisory Committee, new services, and a more consistent approach to annual budgeting and planning.

## Dalhousie and Halifax Public Libraries Team up to Purchase Video Difference Film Collection

The carefully curated collection at Video Difference, a landmark video rental shop in Halifax, has long been important to Dal's Film Studies program. When Video Difference announced it was closing in August, some Dalhousie faculty members began to work quickly in an effort to purchase a portion of Video Difference's collection. They discovered they weren't alone in their interest when they heard that Halifax Public Libraries was also attempting to keep some of the store's rare and hard-to-find items in public circulation.

Deciding to join forces, Halifax Public Libraries and Dalhousie purchased approximately 5,500 titles from the Video Difference DVD collection.

The collection will be housed jointly in the Killam Memorial Library and at Halifax Public Libraries. Dal's portion of the purchase amounts to over 1,000 titles in subject areas which support classes at the university, including silent film, French and Spanish cinema, as well as films from Ireland, Scotland, Australia, and New Zealand. But the entire collection will be readily available to both the Dal community and the broader public.

"Anyone with a library card in Nova Scotia can borrow these videos and return them to any library in Nova Scotia through the popular Borrow Anywhere, Return Anywhere (BARA) program," said Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian at Dalhousie. "This is another exciting opportunity for the Dalhousie Libraries to work with our public library colleagues on a productive and innovative initiative of benefit to both the university community and the public."

The collection is now being sorted, then it will be catalogued and processed. The news that a portion of this distinctive and important video collection will remain available to the public through the Killam Library and Halifax Public Libraries was well-received by many through comments on social media.

## **Summer Shine**

In early September, the Dal Libraries held our annual welcome reception for the Dal School of Information Management (SIM) students. This event now includes the Summer Shine presentations – this year featuring summer projects by our six SIM interns and one Young Canada Works student.

**Keri McCaffrey:** *Developing Training Modules for Kellogg Navigators*

**Alice Albarda:** *Digitization at the Dalhousie Archives*

**Lauren Bull:** *Sign(s) of the Times*

**Jacob Ericson:** *Citation Style Libguide & Cockerell Fine Bindings*

**Deborah Hemming:** *Comments, Compliments, & Complaints: Creating a Feedback Database for the Killam Library*

**Nick Manuel:** *Collection Management of Physical & Digital Resources at the Kellogg Library*

**Domenic Rosati:** *Collection Assessment of Physical Carriers of Born-Digital Archival Material*

## **PechaKucha Event**

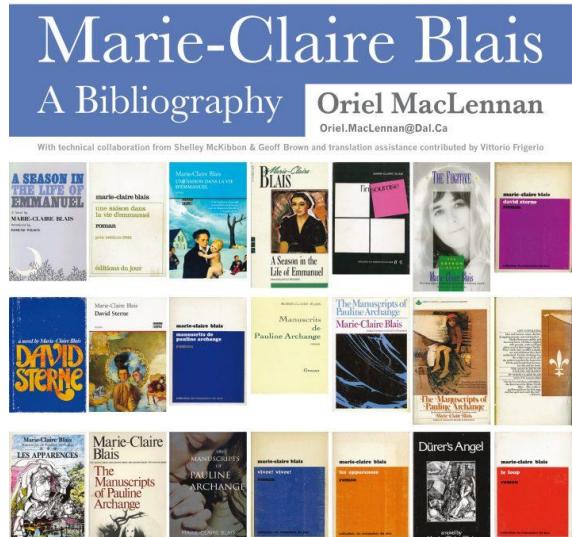
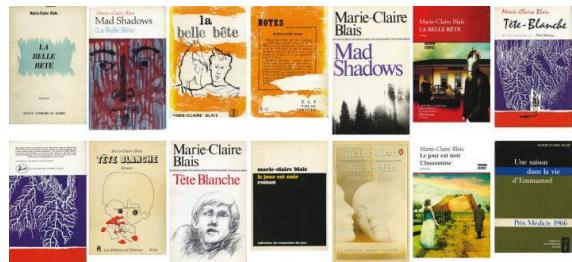
In late August we held the first annual Dal Libraries Conference Season Pecha Kucha event, featuring presentations by 12 Dal librarians and staff. Everyone who attended a conference that spring or summer

was encouraged to do a PechaKucha-style presentation about it—20 slides for 20 seconds each on the theme of “What can the Dal Libraries use from what you learned [at the conference]?”

## Dalhousie-wide Records Management Project

In June, funding was approved to hire a Records Management (RM) Consultant to help Dalhousie finalize a records management policy and best practices, and to implement a program under the auspices of the libraries, based in the archives. It has been a busy time informing various constituencies and partaking in consultations regarding specific RM needs in each unit.

## Oriel MacLennan: An Enduring Study of Marie-Claire Blais



funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the bibliography came out in 1998.

Dalhousie Librarian **Oriel MacLennan** has just published a second bibliography about Québec writer Marie-Claire Blais. Oriel has been researching Marie-Claire Blais for almost thirty years. In addition to the two bibliographies, she has also written and collaborated on two articles and appeared in a documentary about Blais.

An important figure in the Canadian literary scene, Blais is known for producing works of great scholarly interest. She has written more than thirty novels that have been translated into English, German, Russian, and Chinese.[1] Blais has also won many awards for her work, including four Governor General’s Literary Awards, in 1968, 1979, 1996, and 2008.

Oriel’s scholarship on Blais began in 1988 when she was invited to collaborate with Dr. Irène Oore of Dalhousie’s French Department on the first Marie-Claire Blais bibliography. Published by ECW Press with

“I continued collecting material beyond the 1959–1991 scope, partly out of habit, but also in hope of developing a second volume eventually,” said Oriel. She also continued to publish about Blais.

In 2004, Oriel collaborated with John Barnstead of Dal’s Russian Department to publish “Marie-Claire Blais and Dostoyevsky: Observations from the Notebooks” in Canadian Slavonic Papers 46.3-4 (fall

2004): 381-400. “This project emerged from some sabbatical work transcribing and studying Marie-Claire Blais’s diaries from 1962–74 in the National Library — Dostoyevsky is a major influence, as evidenced there, and one continues to see those traces and references in her most recent writing,” said Oriel. In 2008, this article was translated into French for inclusion in a Québec publication called *Visions poétiques de Marie-Claire Blais*.[2]

Oriel’s next article appeared in the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, “Boundaries, Borders, and Barriers: Marie-Claire Blais and the Archival Adventure,” 40.2 (spring 2006): 60-78. “This project emerged from scouring archives all over for collections of Marie-Claire Blais correspondence with other notables in the literary and artistic world — some interesting insights into her literary development emerged,” said Oriel.

Marie-Claire Blais herself referred Suzette Lagacé, a filmmaker from Moncton who was working on a documentary about Blais, to Oriel. “Suzette and I had many discussions concerning themes and ideas for the documentary, and I ended up, to my great surprise, participating in it, along with Antonine Maillet, Michel Tremblay, Margaret Atwood, etc. — a most interesting experience. The documentary debuted at the Festival des films sur l’art in Montréal in 2006,” said Oriel. The English version of the documentary, *Illuminations*, is available at the Killam.

Most recently, Oriel has produced a second bibliography about Blais. “I hope this bibliography will serve students and researchers in Blaisian scholarship well,” said Oriel. The second bibliography follows the original, but some modifications have been made, such as the inclusion of a “primary” section comprising works, parts, archival listings, and interviews; archival fonds are described in more detail than in the average finding aid; a “secondary” section including critique, theses, dissertations, and reviews; a third section comprising entries in standard reference works available in most academic libraries; keyword and mot-clé indexing replacing annotations in the interview, critique, and thesis sections, presenting an added bilingual dimension; and more.[3] This “new” bibliography will be “officially” launched in Québec in November, at the Journées internationales Marie-Claire Blais, and features a cover designed by Oriel’s brother Mark, an award-winning graphic designer based in Germany. It is available electronically through DalSpace, our institutional repository.

[1] <http://canadian-writers.athabascau.ca/french/writers/mcblais/mcblais.php>

[2] *Visions poétiques de Marie-Claire Blais*. Eds. Janine Ricouart & Roseanna Dufault. Montréal: les éditions du remue-ménage, 2008.

[3] *Marie-Claire Blais: a bibliography*, compiled by Oriel MacLennan, 2015.

Categories: Arts, Social Sciences & Sciences, Featured News, General Library News, Headlines, Staff News

Tags: Marie-Claire Blais, Oriel MacLennan

## Reading with J.A. Wainwright

One of our most respected Dalhousie Canadian literature teachers and writers (now retired from teaching), Dr. J. A. Wainwright, gave a reading on Tuesday, October 4 in the program room on the fifth floor of the Killam Library.

Dr. Wainwright is the author of five books of poetry, five novels, and two biographies. His most recent work of fiction is *The Last Artist* (2016). He is McCulloch Emeritus Professor in English at Dalhousie University. This reading is sponsored by the Canadian Literary Collections Project, which Dr. Wainwright helped establish.

## Dal Libraries Presents a Digital Preservation Management Workshop

The Dalhousie Libraries organized a five-day Digital Preservation Management (DPM) Workshop this September.

The workshop was led by internationally recognized digital preservation experts Nancy McGovern (Director of Digital Preservation at MIT Libraries) and Kari Smith (Senior Digital Archivist at MIT Institute Archives), along with guest instructors and presenters both in-person and virtually. There was also a keynote presentation by Evelyn McLellan, President of Artefactual Systems.

The workshop included interactive presentations, group discussions, exercises, and individual assignments. Workshop attendees explored the range of components needed to develop an effective digital preservation program. The curriculum is continually updated to reflect the latest community standards and practice.

The Digital Preservation Management Workshops, a series presented since 2003, incorporate community standards and exemplars of good practice to provide practical guidance for developing effective digital preservation programs. The goals of the workshop are to foster critical thinking in a technological realm and provide the means for exercising practical and responsible stewardship of digital assets in an age of technological uncertainty.

For more information about the DPM workshop, visit: <http://www.dpworkshop.org>